



BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS AGENDA
LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of
Supervisors 105 E. Anapamu
Street, Suite 407 Santa
Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: September 10, 2019
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director (s): Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

Contact Info: Barney Melekian, Assistant County Executive Officer
Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: Response to 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report: Suicide in Custody

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Consider and adopt the responses set forth in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury report entitled "Suicide in Custody," Attachment B; and
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment A and forward the letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court; and
- c) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are government administrative activities that does not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

On June 29, 2019, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a report entitled “Suicide in Custody”. Today, the Board will consider the proposed response to the report, adopt their preferred response and authorize the Board Chair to sign the response letter. The Board is required to respond in writing to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by September 27, 2019.

Background:

On June 29, 2019, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a report entitled “Suicide in Custody?” The Grand Jury stated that: “The purpose of this report is not to speculate whether AB’s death could have been avoided had employees of the Sheriff’s Office and Wellpath done a better job. The Jury’s role in this case is to investigate the circumstances of the death, determine the facts, and make recommendations with the goal of improving local government operations”.

The Grand Jury made 9 findings and had 9 recommendations. The Board of Supervisors are named as responders to Finding 9 and Recommendation 9. The Sheriff’s Department is named as responders to Findings 1-8 as well as Recommendations 1-8.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Staff anticipates no fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of the Board’s action on this matter.

Special Instructions:

1. As per Recommendation b, please forward the original signed letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court.
2. Please send a copy of the signed letter and a copy of the minute order to Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, CEO office.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Board of Supervisors Response

Attachment B: FY 2018-19 Grand Jury Report “Suicide in Custody”

Attachment C: Sheriff’s response to FY 2018-19 Grand Jury Report “Suicide in Custody”

Authored by:

Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, County Executive Office